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Chairman: Mr. Wenaweser ..... (Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 100: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/57/3, A/57/64, A/57/135, A/57/152 and Add.1, A/57/153, A/57/154, A/57/158 and Add.1 and A/C.3/57/L.2, L.3, L.4 and L.5)

Agenda item 101: International drug control (*continued*) (A/57/3, A/57/88, A/57/127 and A/57/203)

1. **Ms. Viotti** (Brazil) said that she supported the proposal submitted by Costa Rica on behalf of the Rio Group and welcomed the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/57/153), which highlighted the progress made with regard to the promotion of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. The Convention and its protocols had been submitted to the National Congress of Brazil for approval. The report also mentioned the negotiation of the draft United Nations convention against corruption, which should be completed by the end of 2003. Her delegation supported the work of the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for negotiating the draft convention, in particular its efforts to be comprehensive in its approach and to strike a balance between preventive measures and law enforcement.

2. The fight against transnational organized crime and the promotion of international cooperation in that area were matters of the highest priority for Brazil. In the context of national crime prevention and criminal justice activities, Brazil had made use of United Nations documents, in particular proposals made by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Many of its recommendations had been taken into account during the drafting and implementation of Brazil's Public Security Plan, which had produced good results over the preceding two years, in protecting crime witnesses and victims, adopting laws to combat money-laundering, improving the efficiency of punishments and controlling trade in and possession of firearms. At the regional level, Brazil had held discussions with its MERCOSUR partners in March 2002 regarding the necessary amendments to its legislation and policies on the restriction of firearms and ammunition. With regard to the fight against money-laundering, in 2000 Brazil had joined the Financial Action Task Force on money-laundering of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which had ranked Brazil among the 10 countries which had fully implemented its recommendations in the areas of legislation, finance and international cooperation.

3. Brazil had been collaborating closely with neighbouring countries in order to fight more effectively against illegal drug consumption and trafficking and related offences. Drug-related crime had been one of the main issues discussed at the first meeting of the Presidents of South America, held in Brazil in 2000. Initiatives had also been adopted within the framework of the Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries. In March 2002, Brazil had taken part in a productive meeting of the drug control coordination mechanism between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. The relevant national legislation had been updated in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and administrative structures had been streamlined, for example through the creation of the National Anti-Drugs Bureau. The National Anti-Drugs Policy, launched in December 2001, responded to serious concerns within Brazilian society about illegal drug use, which had led to the increasing participation of non-governmental organizations in the fight against that scourge.

4. The demand for illegal drugs and their production and trafficking remained global problems. Fortunately, there was a growing awareness that the international fight against drugs was a collective obligation which should be addressed in a multilateral context in an integrated and balanced manner, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law and with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Continued strong support for international cooperation programmes based on multidimensional strategies which took account of prevention and rehabilitation as well as repressive measures would make it possible to overcome the serious obstacles which still remained.

5. **Mr. Gzilal** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the profound political, economic and social transformations affecting the world had given rise to new forms of transnational organized crime and new types of attacks on basic rights and fundamental freedoms, which could have a destabilizing effect on a

number of societies and were affecting all areas of life. Some of the most worrisome problems included drug trafficking, illicit trade in women, children and emigrants, the illegal antiques trade, trafficking in arms and ammunition, crimes against the environment, the use of information and communications technology with criminal intent and even trafficking in human organs, which was a real crime against humanity. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, maintained bilateral cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries and participated in a regional mechanism to combat transnational crime and control borders. In view of the fact that the aim of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was to promote international cooperation against those types of crimes, his delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would promote initiatives to provide that body, which was of vital importance to the African countries, with the funding it needed.

6. Corruption was an evil that subverted law, undermined morality and corroded the social and economic fabric. Moreover, it ate away at the world's financial resources, in particular those of developing countries. Consequently, he welcomed the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for drafting the convention against corruption, whose task should be completed in 2003. His country supported that process and was confident that it would open the way to the adoption of effective measures to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of illegally obtained funds and to repatriate those funds to their countries of origin. On the other hand, he hoped that the convention would not be used as a pretext for intervening in States' internal affairs. He also welcomed the preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in 2005, at which commitments made by Member States under the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the planned convention against corruption must become reality. Similarly, it was necessary to fight against State terrorism in all its forms, since it remained a form of organized crime which threatened the whole international community. Under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, the international community must urgently comply with its obligation to establish a precise definition of terrorism, distinguishing it from the right of peoples to self-determination and to resist foreign occupation and excluding from its criteria all types of discrimination or partiality. The international community must accede to both conventions and to other similar international agreements and consider mechanisms which would make it possible to eradicate all forms of transnational crime.

7. **Mr. Tesch** (Australia) said that his country agreed wholeheartedly with the position adopted in the 2000 Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, which called on the international community to take concerted action to address the challenges posed by transnational crime. Trafficking and trade in persons and people were two of the major forms of transnational crime, and were often linked to other criminal activities, such as document fraud, money-laundering and drug trafficking. The International Organization for Migration had estimated that worldwide proceeds from smuggling and trafficking in persons amounted to around US$ 10 billion a year. Trafficking in persons posed a direct threat to State sovereignty and the illegal movement of asylum-seekers undermined the effectiveness and integrity of the international refugee protection system and could erode public support for legal migration programmes. Australia had adopted laws and other measures to deter, prosecute and convict those responsible for such activities, to seize the proceeds from those crimes and take care of the victims. However, no single country could eradicate a problem which, being international in nature, could be resolved only through coordinated and concerted action through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels.

8. At the regional level, the process begun at the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali in 2002 was essential to internationalize the issue and complement the important work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. At that Conference, co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia, ministers from 38 countries had made commitments to adopt region-wide cooperation measures to put an end to the trade in human beings, with particular emphasis on crime prevention. Two Ad Hoc Expert Groups, coordinated by New Zealand and Thailand, had been set up and were focusing on regional exchange of information, the criminalization of trafficking in persons in all countries and the enhancement of regional cooperation in the area of law enforcement. The most significant aspect of the Bali process was the

willingness to integrate the regional initiatives with other global cooperation programmes, reflecting participants' acknowledgement that trafficking in persons and people smuggling constituted an international problem which required an international solution. The Expert Groups would submit progress reports to the next Ministerial Conference, to be held in Bali in early 2003.

9. His delegation supported the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to examine the phenomenon of secondary movements — when people moved from a country in which they had access to protection from persecution to another destination. Australia would also like to see heightened priority given and greater coordination throughout the United Nations system in dealing with illegal people movements.

10. **Mr. Chuquihuara** (Peru) associated himself with the statement made at the previous meeting by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Rio Group and acknowledged the significance of the statement made to the Committee by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The Peruvian Government and people were engaged in an intensive fight against illegal drug trafficking, which was one of the worst evils facing humanity and, in particular, the Andean subregion. However, the global nature of the phenomenon required the active and unwavering participation of the whole international community on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility. Therefore, Peru advocated increased international cooperation through the establishment of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms which would add weight to the response to this multifaceted and complex problem.

11. During the past decade, Peru had made very constructive efforts in that regard: for example, only 34,000 hectares were now dedicated to coca cultivation, as compared to 125,000 hectares in 1990. Various factors had contributed to that success, including effective aerial prohibition, the collapse of terrorist groups, the sharp drop in the price of the coca leaf leading to abandonment of coca cultivation. However, since 1999, a number of occurrences had had serious repercussions on the fight against illegal drug trafficking: prices had begun to rise, which had a negative effect on the process of abandoning cultivation; poverty levels in Peru had risen significantly; and discontent had broken out among coca growers with regard to the alternative development programmes. For all those reasons, eradication was beginning to be strongly opposed.

12. Faced with that situation, the Peruvian Government had renewed its efforts and designed an integral strategy based on four interdependent focal points (prohibition, alternative development, auto-eradication and eradication, and prevention of drug consumption) with a view to eliminating illegal drug trafficking in Peru by lowering the price of the coca leaf, progressively reducing the number of cultivated areas, raising the standard of living of farm workers in coca-producing areas and maintaining national peace and security. Prohibition continued to be an important tool for intercepting drug exit routes and facilitating the destruction of laboratories and the monitoring of chemical precursors used in the manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride. Alternative development, another essential tool, was intended to reduce poverty in coca-producing areas through the promotion of sustainable and legitimate economic activities. A new component had been introduced into the eradication and auto-eradication process, namely the payment of daily wages, food support and support for productive projects and communal activities with a view to reducing social conflict. With a view to preventing consumption, measures were being adopted to reduce domestic consumption and improve addict treatment facilities in the hope of reintegrating them fully into society.

13. In that context, he stressed that, in many countries in the region, it had become urgent to address the growing social demands resulting from enforcement of necessary economic policies, but which could make the objectives of the fight against drug trafficking non-viable and endanger democratic governance.

14. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of stimulating stable channels for investment flows and granting preferential access to products from countries which were facing problems relating to the illegal cultivation of and trafficking in drugs. In that connection, he welcomed the recent renewal of the Andean Trade Preference Act, which had finally been approved by the United States Congress.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.